CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of tracking available service plan minutes for a user of a cellular phone, comprising:

recording service plan information on said cellular phone;

monitoring minute usage for calls on said cellular phone; and

displaying available minutes of said service plan on a display device of said cellular phone.

2.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting a user for input of said service plan information when an available minute menu option is selected.

3.   The method of Claim 2, further comprising storing said service plan information in a memory of said cellular phone.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein said service plan information includes a number of peak period minutes and off-peak period minutes and wherein:

said monitoring step further comprises separately monitoring said peak period minutes and said off-peak period minutes; and

said displaying step further comprises separately displaying a first available minutes output associated with said peak period minutes and a second available minutes output associated with said off-peak period minutes.

5.   The method of Claim 4, wherein said displaying step displays only said first available minutes output during a clock time associated with said peak period minutes and displays only said second available minutes output during a next clock time associated with said off-peak period minutes.

6.   The method of Claim 4, further comprising outputting an alert signal when said available minutes reaches a preselected threshold.

7.   The method of Claim 6, wherein said displaying step displays a graphical representation of said available minutes and wherein said alert signal includes flashing said graphical representation.

8.   The method of Claim 6, wherein said displaying step displays a numerical output.

9.   A cellular telephone comprising:

a processor and associated memory;

a display device; and

program code executed by said processor for tracking available service plan minutes for a user of said cellular phone, comprising code for:

recording service plan information on said cellular phone;

7   monitoring minute usage for calls on said cellular phone; and

8   displaying available minutes of said service plan on said display device.

1   10.   The cellular telephone of Claim 9, further comprising program code for prompting

2   a user for input of said service plan information when an available minute menu option is

3   selected.

1   11.   The cellular telephone of Claim 10, further comprising program code for storing

2   said service plan information in said memory of said cellular phone.

1   12.   The cellular telephone of Claim 11, wherein said service plan information

2   includes a number of peak period minutes and off-peak period minutes and wherein:

3   said monitoring program code further comprises code for separately monitoring

4   said peak period minutes and said off-peak period minutes; and

5   said displaying program code further comprises code for separately displaying a

6   first available minutes output associated with said peak period minutes and a second

7   available minutes output associated with said off-peak period minutes.

1   13.   The cellular telephone of Claim 12, wherein said displaying program code

2   displays only said first available minutes output during a clock time associated with said

3   peak period minutes and displays only said second available minutes output during a next

4   clock time associated with said off-peak period minutes.

1   14.   The cellular telephone of Claim 12, further comprising program code for

2   outputting an alert signal when said available minutes reaches a preselected threshold.

15. The cellular telephone of Claim 12, wherein said displaying program code displays a graphical representation of said available minutes and wherein said alert signal includes flashing said graphical representation.

16. The cellular telephone of Claim 12, wherein said displaying program code displays a numerical output.

17. A cellular telephone system comprising:

a service provider;

at least one cellular telephone provided cellular service via said service provider;

means for tracking minute usage for calls on said cellular phone; and

means for providing a user of said cellular phone with a display of available minutes in a service plan associated with said cellular phone.

18. The cellular telephone system of Claim 17, wherein:

said tracking means includes monitoring said minute usage at a database of said service provider of said service plan; and

said providing means includes transmitting an available minutes output to said cellular phone at a termination of each of said calls, wherein said display includes said transmitted available minutes output.

19.   The cellular telephone system of Claim 17, wherein said cellular telephone comprises:

a processor and associated memory;

a display device; and

program code executed by said processor for tracking available service plan minutes for a user of said cellular phone, comprising code for:

recording service plan information on said cellular phone;

monitoring minute usage for calls on said cellular phone; and

displaying available minutes of said service plan on said display device.

20.   The cellular telephone system of Claim 19, wherein said service plan information includes a number of peak period minutes and off-peak period minutes and wherein:

said monitoring program code further comprises code for separately monitoring said peak period minutes and said off-peak period minutes; and

said displaying program code further comprises code for separately displaying a first available minutes output associated with said peak period minutes and a second available minutes output associated with said off-peak period minutes.